IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the first paragraph of page 1 as follows:

This nonprovisional U.S. national application, filed under 35 U.S.C. § 111(a), claims, under 37 C.F.R. § 1.78(a)(3), the benefit of the filing date of provisional U.S. national application no. 60/173,914, attorney docket no. D5407-00109, filed on 12/29/99 under 35 U.S.C. § 111(b), the entirety of which is incorporated herein by reference. It has been proposed in co-pending U.S. patent application Ser. No. 09—/746,155————, attorney docket no. D5407-00109, filed on ————————December 22, 2002 with a U.S. Express Mail number of ————————————EL 675616662US, and incorporated herein by reference, to provide a system and method for software design of software architectures and, in particular, to provide for the design of a software component architecture for the development of extensible tier software component applications such as is used herein.

Please amend the second full paragraph of page 11 as follows:

Referring now generally to **Fig. 1** through **Fig. 21**, an N-tier application of the present invention is designed using an extensible N-tier architecture developed using a methodology for specifying rules and methods that enable applications to be constructed. Such a methodology has been proposed in co-pending U.S. patent application Ser. No 09/746,155.——/————, attorney docket no. D5407-00109, filed on December 22, 2002———————— with a U.S. Express Mail number of EL 675616662US————————————, and incorporated herein by reference.